Mid Air explosion of 'Kanishka flight'

*178. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the Canadian media report about the mid-air explosion of 'Kanishka' on Flight AI-182 from Montreal to New Delhi nine years ago;

(b) whether any of the culprits have been apprehended and prosecuted; and

(c) the culprits still absconding and the steps being taken to secure their extradition?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Government have no evidence to conclude that information, as alleged in the Canadian media report, was available with the U.S. Government.

(b) and (c) Till date, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who are conducting the criminal investigation into the case have not made any arrests and the names of the suspects have also not been made public. The question of extradition, therefor, does not arise.

Nuclear mishap averted at Kakrapar

*179. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that explosion of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station was averted recently by sheer providence; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted by Government into circumstances leading to the nuclear disaster threat and what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) No, Sir. There was no situation/ circumstances which could have led to an explosion in the Kakrapar Atomic Power Station. Therefore, averting of such a explosion by sheer providence as referred to in the question does not arise.

(b) Does not arise.

Procedure for charging the prices of Periodicals

*180. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Publications & Informaion Directorate of the CSIR have fixed two different prices for its periodicals etc. i.e. one for those that are to be sold within the country, and other for those publications that are to be sold abroad by Indian agents;

(b) whether the earlier procedure to charge the Indian price in rupees from agents irrespective of the fact that the publication was to be sold within the country or outside has been recently changed, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether, with the altered procedure, the Dierctorate has made it a condition that an agent should provide them a list of and users before the supply is made;

(d) if so, the reasons for the new condition which is obviously not in conformity with normal trade practice; and

(e) whether the information regarding end-users would be kept confidential to protect the interest of the agent exporter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir, PID is following the dual

pricing policy for its periodicals as per the practice in vogue universally in the case of all other international journals.

(b) The earlier procedure had to be dispensed with, since some agents had been indulging in malpractices inasmuch as they were purchasing PID periodicals in bulk domestic price and selling them abroad at specified foreign price; thus makng enormous profit at the cost of national exchequer.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Asking the agent to provide PID with a list of its subscribers, is not violative of any tra trade policy/practice. This policy is being followed by private publishers also. This practice, as a matter of fact, would stop the malpractices of making huge profits by the agents and would help PID serve the subscribers in a better way. It would also help in getting important feed-back from these valued subscribers in order to improve the quality of journals.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Committee to study situation in North East

1332. SHRI VIZOL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three Committees comprising Union Ministers have been constituted at the instance of the Prime Minister;

(b) whether each Committee has three Union Ministers as its Members;

(c) whether these Committees have been asked to make on the spot study of the situation in North eastern States;

(d) if so, detail with terms of referenee of these Committees; and

(e) whether these Committees have submitted their reports with their findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (e) A Committee, comprising nine Central Ministers under the chairmanship of the Union Home Minister, was constituted in January, 1994 to consider the problems of the tribal communities of the North-Eastern States and submit an assessment report to the Prime Minister. After some discussions, the Committee decided to visit the North-Eastern States in three groups. Accordingly, the three groups of Ministers led by the Union Home Minister, the Union Finance Minister and the Union Commerce Minister visited different States of the North East Region. During their visit, the Groups of Ministers exchanged views with a cross-section of the people including, among others, Governors, Chief Ministers and their Cabinet colleagues, Leaders of recognised political parties, Chairmen of Autonomous District Councils, non-governmental organisations, prominent citizens, the Press etc. Impressions gathered are expected to be discussed by the full Committee before finalising its Report.

Targets of atomic energy generation

1333. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for atomic energy generation of various projects in operation for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) whether these targets have been achieved; and

(c) if so, what are the names of the projects which could not achieve their targets and what were the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) to (c) The targets fixed for the generation of electricity for the nuclear power stations of nuclear Power Corporaton of India Ltd. (NPCIL) in operation and their achievements for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are as follows: